

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 00975 030828Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-15 COME-00 BIB-01 AID-05

XMB-04 TRSE-00 /062 W

-----100791 031412Z /53

R 030803Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADQUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6362

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 0975

DEPT PASS EXIM

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETEL,BDIS, UV

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL VISIT AND COMMUNICATIONS STAELLITE
PROBLEMS

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (PTT)

INFORMED EMBASSY MARCH 2 THAT MINISTER OF POSTS AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, PAUL ISMAEL OUEDRAOGO, ARRIVING
WASHINGTON MARCH 5 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH EXIM, COMSAT,
AND GET REGARDING UPPER VOLTA'D DISSATISFACTION WITH
OPERATIONS TO DATE OF GTE INSTALLED SATELLITE COMMUNI-
CATIONS SYSTEM. MIN PTT ALSO WISHES ONE YEARPOST-
PONEMENT OF FIRST PAYMENT FOR EX-IM FIANANCED PROJECT.

2. PTT DIRGEN TOLD EMBOFF THAT COMSAT SYSTEM HAS BEEN
PLAGUED WITH TECHNICAL PROBELMS EVER SINCE IT WAS PUT IN
SERVICE ON DEC /10,1977. HE CHARGED THAT GTE AND COMSAT
HAVE BEEN DERELICT IN PROVIDING AFTER-SALES SERVICE TO
SYSTEM AND THAT TECHNICIANS RESPONSIBLE FOR SYSTEM'S
INSTALLATION LEFT UPPER VOLTA IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEC 10
OPENING. HE SAID COMSAT HAD NOT PROVIDED AGREED ON
SUVERVISION OF WORK PERFORMED AND THAT NO REPORTS ON
PPXJECT SUPERVISION HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO PTT. HE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OUAGAD 00975 030828Z

FURTHER STATED THAT GOUV'S AND PTTBSQUERIES AND
COMPLAINTS TO COMSAT AND GTE HAVE GONE UNHEEDED. DIRGEN
CITED LONG DELAYS IN DELIVERY OF MATERIALS AND SAID
CENTRAL TELEX'S FOR BOBO-DIOLASSO AND OUAGADOUGOU HAVE
STILL NOT ARRIVED. DELAYS AND DOWN TIME OF SYSTEM HAVE
GAESULTED IN DISRUPTION OF NATTGNAL COMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEM AND LARGE REVENUE LOSSES TO PTT.

3. BECAUSE OF GOUV'S PERCEPTION OF GTE AND COMSAT UNRESPONSIVENESS, MINISTER OUEDRAOGO HAS DECIDED TO TRAVEL TO U.S. TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH COMSAT AND GTE OFFICIALS. PTT DIRGEN STRESSED THAT GOUV DELIVERATELY CHOSE AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY RATHER THAN A FRENCH SYSTEM AS POLICY DECISION. NOTING THAT THIS WAS FIRST MAJOR U.S. COMMERCIAL PROJECT IN UPPER VOLTA, DIRGEN STATED THAT FURURE GOUV DECISIONS ON PURCHASE OF TECHNICAL SYSTEMS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY PERFORMANCE OF U.S. FIRMS IN SALE AND SERVICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS.

4. PTT DIRGEN THEN STATED THAT BECAUSE FINANCIAL LOSSES FROM DELAYS AND DOWN TIME OF SYSTEM WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY BEAEN SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN AUGUST 1977 THAT GOUV WOULD BE REQUESTING FROM EXIM AND COMMERCIAL BANKS INVOLVED NR PROJECT (EQUATOR, BANK OF AMERICA AND HARTFORD BANK) IN ONE YEAR POSTPONEMENT OF FIRST PAYMENT FROM JUNE 1978 TO JUNE 1979.

5. MINISTER SCHEBBLED ARRIVE WASHINGTON MARCH 5, 1630 HOURS, TWO 803. AMBASSADOR YAGUIBOU OF VOLTAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN TASKED WITH SETTING UP APPOINTMENTS AND WILL PRESUMABLY MEET MINISTER ON HIS ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON. REQUEST APPROPRIATE COURTESIES DURING ARRIVAL FORMALITIES.
BIGELOW
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OUAGAD 00975 030828Z

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, SATELLITES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OUAGAD00975
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780097-0987
Format: TEL
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803109/aaaadoye.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 999124b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3125730
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTERIAL VISIT AND COMMUNICATIONS STAEELLITE PROBLEMS
TAGS: ETEL, BDIS, UV, (OUEDRAOGO, PAUL ISMAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/999124b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014